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WELLINGTON (SALOP) RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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INTERIM REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH & SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF THE

WELLINGTON (SALOP) RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE

YEAR 1943.

Once again the Ministry of Health has required that the Report on the Health of the District shall be presented in an abbreviated form.

The year was marked by the return to epidemic conditions of that common complaint of childhood - measles, this was unaccompanied by any corresponding rise in whooping cough, the figure for which remained almost constant. The measles outbreak was widely scattered, was of considerable duration and was associated with similar outbreaks in the areas of neighbouring authorities. In the relevant section reference has been made to the comparative absence of Diphtheria, while again in the case of Scarlet Fever little variation in the number of cases notified has been observed. No cases of Sonne' Dysentery have been reported in the District this year.

Vital Statistics show that the birthrate is higher than that of the country generally, whilst the deathrate is slightly lower than that of the country.

The Sanitary Circumstances of the area are dealt with under the relevant sections of the report. Attention has been drawn to the number of acute cases of overcrowding reported and unable to be relieved.

The Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of thanking the Public Health Department for their close co-operation during the year and in the compilation of this report.

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SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in Acres)	54,584
Estimated population (mid year 1943)	19,260
Number of inhabited houses as at 31st Dec. 1943 (according to rate book)	5,400
Rateable Value	£107,999
Sum represented by 1d rate	£437

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Live Births

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	201	201	402
Illegitimate	10	12	22
Totals	211	213	424

Birth rate per 1000 of estimated population 22.0

Birth rate per 1000 of estimated population (England & Wales) 16.5

Still Births.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	7	10	17
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	7	10	17

Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births - 39

Deaths.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
	103	103	206

Death rate per 1000 of population - 10.6

Death rate per 1000 of population (England & Wales) - 12.1

Infantile Mortality.

All infants per 1000 Live Births		28.7
All infants per 1000 Live Births (England & Wales)		49.0
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births		27.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live illegitimate births		45.4
Total Number of Infant Deaths.	Legitimate	11
	Illegitimate	1

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	34
Measles " "	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	2

Maternal Mortality.

One death occurred under this heading

Chief Causes of Death.

Tuberculosis (all forms)	14
Syphilis	3
Influenza	6
Cancer	As above
Intra Cranial Haemorrhage	22
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	52
Bronchitis	9
Pneumonia	6
Nephritis	3
Premature Birth and Malformation	8
Suicide and Violence	8
Other Causes	30

SECTION B.

General Provision of Services.

Bacteriological Service.

This continues to be carried out at the Royal Salop Infirmary under the direction of Dr. Rhodes.

Ambulance Service.

The District has still to rely on ambulances of

neighbouring authorities to meet its needs, and while a site has been fixed for the erection of an Ambulance Station at Donnington the year has closed without any material change in the position.

Mortuary Service.

For this service also the District is dependent on neighbouring authorities. The proposition to adapt certain buildings at Donnington for use as a mortuary has not yet materialised and I feel that the Council should consider themselves fortunate in having so far found it unnecessary to put into operation the Emergency Mortuary Service. Had less fortunate circumstances arisen necessity for the provision of a properly equipped mortuary would be much more appreciated.

Disinfestation.

No further progress has been made with regard to the adaptation of a building for disinfestation and fumigation at Donnington.

A number of cases of houses infested with bugs and fleas during the year have been reported and treatment with Zaldecide has had fairly satisfactory results.

The Infestation Order 1943 directed the Council to have a survey of the District carried out to ascertain the extent of rat infestation. As agricultural premises were excluded from the Order it appears that the usefulness of the survey was minimised considerably. A Report on the survey was submitted to the Ministry of Food and the County Council, but in spite of persistent propaganda on the part of the Ministry, action is still awaited from that quarter.

SECTION B.

Scavenging.

This service by direct labour continues to be most satisfactory. The industrial parts of the District are scavenged once fortnightly, the total number of houses being 3,127. The cost per house per annum is 7/7 or 1¾d. per house per week, which I consider an extremely reasonable figure under present circumstances.

It is fortunate that there have been no serious interruptions in the maintenance of this service and I am pleased to note that the Council have deemed it advisable to place on order a new vehicle for refuse collection and this vehicle may be expected in service early in 1944.

I think the comparative freedom from complaints is sufficient evidence as to the efficiency of this service.

Salvage.

In common with other local authorities the Council continue to meet their responsibilities as far as they are able with the labour available, in the collection and disposal of materials needed for the war effort. A fortnightly house to house collection is now made in the areas of Hadley and Donnington, a monthly collection in the Ketley and Lawley areas, while periodic collections are made from other parts of the District and factories.

Water Supplies.

Except where stated hereafter the District has an adequate supply of water of a reasonable standard of purity where main services are concerned. Where the area is dependant on wells close supervision and repeated sampling are necessary. The piped services are maintained constantly. Service by standpipes is

confined to a minority of the parishes and represents a low proportion of the whole.

The year has seen the new borehole and pump at Lilleshall put into operation and delivering 30,000 gallons of water per hour. Periodic samples of water have been taken and show it to be highly satisfactory, chlorination of this supply is, of course being carried out.

The inadequate supply of water to New Works has again received considerable attention by the Council and deliberations have resulted in a scheme being submitted by the Council's Engineer for supply by means of an auto-pneumatic pumping plant from the Lawley mains. The approval of the Ministry is awaited.

Discussions have also taken place with neighbouring authorities with regard to augmenting the supply of water to the Wellington Rural Parish but developments appear to be slow.

Close observation has been kept of the various water supplies in the area and in the case of Kynnersley supply the position has been serious. A breakdown in the pumping plant resulted in the village being without an adequate water supply for a considerable period. A new pump was installed and sampling of the water thereafter showed evidence of fairly heavy pollution. All householders were advised to boil water before drinking and two of the Council's emergency water tanks were located in the village and a supply of chlorinated water made available therein. The owners were requested to clean out both reservoir and well but owing to inability to obtain labour this was not done and the year closed with the supply still unsatisfactory. This case

more than ever reminds us of the need for an adequate piped supply of water in the rural areas.

The supply of water at Roden has also caused some concern. On a number of occasions analysis has shown some pollution and there was no material change at the end of the year in spite of certain works having been carried out by the owners.

Cottage supplies have also been sampled and in the cases where the supplies have been found unsatisfactory boiling has been advised and the owners attention has been drawn to the defective supplies, but owing to labour shortage it is only in a few cases that any improvements have been carried out.

Sewage Disposal.

It became apparent early in the year that the sewage disposal works at Donnington were becoming overloaded and insufficient to deal with the quantity of sewage being discharged thereto owing to the increased population. On the advice of their Engineer the Council applied to the Ministry for sanction to extend these works at a cost of some £16,000; approval was given and the beginning of November saw the work put in hand.

The water logging of land at the Hadley Sewage Disposal Works due to faulty land drainage is still unchanged owing to the lack of sufficient labour to carry out the necessary works. The remaining sewage disposal works have caused little concern during the the year and are working satisfactorily.

Consistent with other areas it has been found extremely difficult to effect all but a minimum amount of work in connection with redraining of premises and conversion of closets to water-carriage system. In a number of cases however, where there was

more than an element of danger to health it was found possible to press successfully for the necessary work to be carried out.

SECTION D.

Housing.

By the end of the year the estate at Donnington had been practically completed, 826 houses have been built leaving only 18 for completion. The estate was officially declared open on the 19th July by the Rt. Hon. Ernest Brown, M.P., Minister of Health.

The formation of the Donnington Tenants' Association during the year I regard as a healthy sign and am sure that the Council will welcome and support the activities of such an Association as much as possible.

The erection of 4 houses for agricultural workers at Wrockwardine was commenced during the year and these were practically complete by the end of the year.

The repair of dwellings under the Housing Act has, of necessity again been seriously interrupted and only in very urgent cases has it been found possible to get work carried out. The inability to obtain labour to execute normal repairs is resulting in some properties in the District falling into a state of disrepair which is likely to affect seriously their future.

The acute shortage of houses in the District is directly responsible for a considerable number of serious cases of over-crowding . Some of the most acute cases have been reported to the Council and recommendations made to give priority to these cases in future letting of Council houses.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Meat & Foods.

The Government controlled slaughter-houses at Shrewsbury and Newport continue to supply the area with meat.

Small quantities of varieties of foodstuffs have been inspected and condemned during the year, these mostly comprised tinned foods, bacon, margarine, flour and fruit, as set out below.

Bacon.	-	110 lbs.
Margarine	-	56 "
Flour & Custard Powder	-	50 "
Fruit	-	25 "
Tins of Milk	-	25
" " Meat	-	22
" " Fruit	-	5
" " Fish	-	1

Milk and Dairies.

No. of Cowkeepers and retailers on Register	-	307.
No. of T.T.Licences	-	3.
No. of Accredited Licences	-	57.
No. of Pasteurising Licences	-	1.

Much the same difficulty is being experienced in securing improvements to cowsheds and dairies as is met with in Housing repairs. Inspections are carried out whenever opportunity arises and in several instances it has been possible to secure improvements in milk production and handling, with some difficulty

From the announcement made during the year by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries there appears considerable likelihood that the supervision of milk production will be transfer-ed from Local Authorities to his Ministry. Should this transfer take place it will remain to be seen whether it will secure the desired effect or not, but in fairness to Local Authorities I feel

it can safely be said that they have and still are carrying out their duties under the existing legislation in an able manner considering staffing and other difficulties.

SECTION F.

Infectious Diseases.

Prevalence and control over Infectious and Allied Diseases.

The following table gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, together with the number of deaths:-

Disease	Cases Notified. 1943.	1942.	Deaths.
Measles.	320	71	1
Diphtheria	3	12	-
Scarlet Fever	38	31	-
Pneumonia	30	17	6
Whooping Cough	54	60	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	3	-
Erysipelas	5	10	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	8	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	4	-

Incidence of Disease in the Various age groups.

Years.	Diphtheria.		Measles.		Wh. Cough.		Sc. Fever.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F
0-	-	-	3	2	3	1	-	-
1-	-	-	26	19	8	7	3	-
3-	-	-	33	29	7	2	2	5
5-	1	2	86	91	11	14	6	12
10-	-	-	10	7	-	1	2	2
15-	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	3
25-	-	-	1	6	-	-	3	-
Totals	1	2	163	157	29	25	16	22

Pneumonia.

Years.	Male.	Female.
0-	5	5
5-	-	2
15-	5	7
45-	2	2
65-	2	-
Totals	14	16

Scabies.

77 cases were treated at the Newport Centre and 64 at Donnington. Of these 141 individual cases in certain instances repetition of treatment was found unnecessary.

The facilities provided were of great service, and although circumstances arose which limited the use of the Auxiliary Centre at Donnington, the Newport Centre was able to cope with all the demands made on it. It was noted that towards the end of the year there was a considerable diminution in the number of cases. This Council is fortunate that the treatment of this disease has been able to be maintained under the supervision of one Matron and to her conscientious work much of the success of the local scheme can be attributed.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The bi-annual return submitted to the Ministry of Health for the period ended 31st Dec.1943 was as follows:-

	Age under 5 Years.	5 years and over but under 15.	Total
No. of children who completed course of immunisation between 1st July and 31st Dec.1943	238	118	356
Approximate estimated no. of children in the Authority's area at 31st Dec.1943.	1,890	3434	5,324

Percentage of child population considered to be immunised at 31st Dec, 1943.	75%	87%	77%

The clinical control of the scheme for Diphtheria Prophylaxis continues to be administered mainly by the County Health Department, a small number of cases being protected by the family doctor. The efficiency of the scheme is reflected in the number of cases of this disease notified during the course of the 12 months.

Tuberculosis.

The number of notified cases on the register at the 31st Dec. 1943 and the comparative figures for 1941 and 1942 are as follows

	Males.		Females.		Totals.
	Pulmonary.	Non Pulm.	Pulmonary.	Non Pulm.	
1943	67	64	50	71	252
1942	65	58	47	69	239
1941	59	54	49	63	225

New Cases.

Pulmonary.	Non Pulmonary.	Total
11	12	23

No. of Deaths.

Pulmonary.	Non Pulmonary.	Total.
12	2	14

Death Rates.

	Wellington R.D.	England & Wales.	
Death rate from Pul. T.B. per 1,000 population	.62	.50	ø
Death rate from Non Pulm. T.B. per 1,000 population	.10	.11	ø
Total death rate from all forms of T.B.	.72	.61	ø

ø indicates provisional figures

New Cases and Mortality 1943.

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 5	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-
5 -15	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-
15 -25	-	1	1	1	1	2	-	-
25 -35	1	2	-	1	1	5	1	-
35 -45	4	1	-	1	1	1	-	-
45 -55	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 -65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 over	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Totals	5	6	7	5	3	9	2	-

Cancer

The number of deaths from cancer in 1943 was 34 (16 males and 18 females)

	Wellington R.D.	England & Wales.
Death rate per 1,000,000 living	1,765	1,723

23rd June.1944

W.A.M.Stewart.

Medical Officer of Health.